

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139327
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 H-02 SSM-05
PA-02 SSO-00 /057 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

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PA/PRS - MR. CARTER

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NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----043848 020311Z /13

O 012330Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

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PAGE 02 STATE 139327

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USCINCEUR
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
SECDEF WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 139327

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 1, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 1, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY LAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. THIS MORNING CHAIM HERZOG ON NBC MADE TWO CHARGES, ONE
ABOUT THE SAUDIS BEING THE LARGEST ARMS PURCHASER AND THE
OTHER ABOUT THE CUBANS IN SYRIA A FEW YEARS AGO. COULD YOU
TELL US THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WITH GOLDMAN THIS
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PAGE 03 STATE 139327

MORNING?

A. YES. I CANT TELL YOU THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING. HE
ASKED FOR THE MEETING. AND, OF COURSE, WE WERE HAPPY
TO SET IT UP.

Q. DO YOU CONCUR WITH HIS ESTIMATE THAT THE SAUDIS ARE
THE BIGGEST ARMS PURCHASERS IN THE WORLD, AND DO YOU
HAVE ANYTHING ON THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRENCH FOR
THE MIRAGE?

A. ON THE FIRST THING, I DONT HAVE MUCH ON IT.

ON THE QUESTION OF THE MIRAGE SALE, WE DID SEE BOTH THE

AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT AND WE'VE SEEN OTHER STATEMENTS
ON THIS. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM IT.

WE WOULD NOTE THAT BOTH THE SAUDI ARABIAN FOREIGN MINISTER,
PRINCE SAUD, IN PARIS, WITH KING KHALID AND DEFENSE
MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN IN RIYADH, HAVE DENIED THAT THE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE

FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF MIRAGES.

SECRETARY BROWN IN A LETTER, YOU MAY RECALL, ON MAY 9 SAID THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL NOT -- DOES NOT INTEND TO ADD TO ITS INVENTORY OF COMBAT AIRCRAFT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHILE IT'S PREPARING FOR AND RECEIVING THE 60 F-15'S. THAT GOES THROUGH 1984.

WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LIVE UP TO THOSE ASSURANCES.

ANOTHER QUESTION THAT WAS RAISED BY THE AMBASSADOR WAS THE QUESTION OF FINANCING THE PURCHASE OR CO-PRODUCTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 139327

ADVANCED AIRCRAFT FOR EGYPT. PRINCE SAUD ALSO DENIED THAT.

WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONTRADICT THAT DENIAL. THERE ISN'T, HOWEVER, ANY AGREEMENT THAT THEY CAN'T DO THAT, INCIDENTALLY.

Q. BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT BE CONCERNED IF THEY PURCHASE FROM FRANCE?

A. WELL, THE QUESTION DOESN'T ARISE. THEY ARE NOT, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL.

Q. ON THE CUBANS?

A. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT ISRAEL HAS MADE STRENUOUS PROTESTS TO DELETE FROM THE NATO COMMUNIQUE ANY REFERENCE TO 242?

A. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. AND THE UNITED STATES WAS ON THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE, SO WHAT'S THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES?

A. WE, AS EVERYBODY DID, WENT ALONG WITH THE LAST COMMUNIQUE. THE POSITION IS ONE WE ENDORSE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE139327
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REUNDELAND:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0518
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806105/aaaadmts.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 13b9417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2154616
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 1, 1978
TAGS: SOPN, XF, US
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/13b9417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014